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Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Stefano Toscano (Switzerland), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.25

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001, 57/256 of 20 December 2002, 58/214 of 23 December 2003, and 59/231 of 22 December 2004 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2001/35 of 26 July 2001, and taking into due consideration its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact within recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in developing countries,

Reiterating that, although natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe for developing countries and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development,

Recognizing that disaster risk reduction is a cross-cutting issue in the context of sustainable development,

Recognizing also the clear relationship between development, disaster risk reduction, disaster response and disaster recovery and the need to deploy efforts in all these areas,

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Recognizing further the urgent need to further develop and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to build resilience to natural disasters, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to technology so as to tackle natural disasters effectively,

Emphasizing that disaster risk reduction, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,

Stressing the importance of advancing the implementation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[1] and its relevant provisions on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management,

Expressing its profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Japan for the excellent arrangements made for hosting the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held at Kobe, Hyogo, from 18 to 22 January 2005, for the hospitality extended to the participants and for the facilities, staff and services placed at their disposal, as well as for all the voluntary contributions made to facilitate the participation of representatives of developing countries, in particular those from the least developed countries,

Welcoming the Hyogo Declaration,[2] the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[3] and the Common Statement of the Special Session on the Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer future,[4] as adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held at Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005,

Recognizing that the Hyogo Framework for Action complements the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action ("Yokohama Strategy"),[5]

Taking note that the scope of the Hyogo Framework for Action encompasses disasters caused by hazards of natural origin and related environmental and technological hazards and risks and thus reflects a holistic and multi-hazard approach to disaster risk management and the relationship between them, which can have a significant impact on social, economic, cultural and environmental systems, as stressed in the Yokohama Strategy,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[6]

Recognizing the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, socio-economic activities that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural disasters and to build and further strengthen community capability to cope with disaster risks,

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[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[2] See A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

[3] Ibid., resolution 2.

[4] A/CONF.206/6, annex II.

[5] A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[6] See resolution 60/1.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;[1]

2. *Endorses* the Hyogo Declaration[2] and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters[3] as adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held at Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005, and recalls the Common Statement of the Special Session on the Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer future;[4]

3. *Calls* for a more effective integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies, planning and programming; for the development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards and for a systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes;

4. *Invites* Member States, the United Nations system, including international financial institutions, regional bodies, international organizations as well as relevant civil society organizations, to support, implement and follow up the Hyogo Framework for Action;

5. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, including international financial institutions and international organizations, to integrate the goals of and take into full account the Hyogo Framework for Action in their strategies and programmes, making use of existing coordination mechanisms and to assist developing countries with those mechanisms to design disaster risk reduction measures with a sense of urgency;

6. *Calls upon* the international community to fully implement the commitments of the Hyogo Declaration and in the Hyogo Framework for Action;

7. *Recalls* that the commitments of the Hyogo Declaration and in the Hyogo Framework for Action include the provision of assistance for developing countries that are prone to natural disasters and disaster-stricken States in the transition phase towards sustainable physical, social and economic recovery, for risk-reduction activities in post-disaster recovery and for rehabilitation processes;

8. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, including the international financial institutions as well as regional banks and other regional and international organizations to support, in a timely and sustained manner, the efforts led by disaster-stricken countries for disaster risk reduction in post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes;

9. *Takes note* of all the regional and subregional initiatives developed in order to achieve disaster risk reduction, reiterates the need to develop regional initiatives and risk reduction capacities of regional mechanisms and to strengthen them, wherever they exist, and encourages the use and sharing of all the existing tools;

10. *Notes* the importance of developing international mechanisms for the implementation of the actions established in the Hyogo Framework for Action, such as, for example, the International Recovery Platform launched to ensure the reduction of vulnerability during the post-disaster recovery phase;

[1] A/60/180.

11. *Recognizes* that each State has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and for taking effective measures to reduce disaster risk, including for the protection of people on its territory, infrastructure and other national assets from the impact of disasters, including the implementation and follow-up of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and stresses the importance of international cooperation and partnerships to support those national efforts;

12. *Also recognizes* the need to strengthen the sharing of good practices, knowledge and technical support among all relevant stakeholders;

13. *Calls upon* the international community to support the development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards;

14. *Stresses* the importance of further strengthening the capacity of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction system in order to provide a solid basis for action as mandated by the Hyogo Framework for Action, and requests the Secretary-General to include this issue in his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

15. *Recognizes* the importance of integrating a gender perspective as well as engaging women in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster management, particularly at the disaster risk reduction stage;

16. *Expresses its appreciation* to those countries that have provided financial support for the activities of the International Strategy by making voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

17. *Encourages* the international community to provide adequate voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction, in the effort to ensure the adequate support for the follow-up activities to the Hyogo Framework for Action, and to review the current usage and feasibility for the expansion of the Fund, inter alia, to assist disaster-prone developing countries to set up national strategies for disaster risk reduction;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to allocate adequate financial and administrative resources, within existing resources, for the activities and effective functioning of the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

19. *Invites* Governments and relevant international organizations to consider disaster risk assessment as an integral component of development plans and poverty eradication programmes;

20. *Stresses* the importance of identifying, assessing and managing risks prior to the occurrence of disasters, for which it is necessary to combine the efforts at all levels from the development, humanitarian, scientific and environmental communities as well as the importance of integrating disaster risk reduction, as appropriate, into development plans and poverty eradication programmes;

21. *Also stresses* the need to foster better understanding and knowledge of the causes of disasters, as well as to build and strengthen coping capacities through, inter alia, the transfer and exchange of experiences and technical knowledge, access

to relevant data and information and the strengthening of institutional arrangements, including community-based organizations;

22. *Recognizes* the importance of early warning as an essential element of disaster risk reduction and looks forward to the results of the Third International Conference on Early Warning, which will be held from 27 to 29 March 2006, in Bonn, Germany;

23. *Requests*, in this context, the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to complete the preparation of the global survey on early warning capacities and gaps, including an account of available technologies for early warning, and invites Member States to provide inputs that may assist the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in preparing this survey;

24. *Reiterates* its call on Governments to establish national platforms or focal points for disaster reduction and to strengthen them, wherever they exist, encourages the platforms to share relevant information on standards and practices, in this regard urges the United Nations system to provide appropriate support for those mechanisms, and invites the Secretary-General to strengthen the regional outreach of the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in order to ensure such support;

25. *Stresses* that continued cooperation and coordination among Governments, the United Nations system, other organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners, as appropriate, are considered essential to address effectively the impact of natural disasters;

26. *Recognizes* the importance of linking disaster risk management to regional frameworks, as appropriate, such as the African Regional Strategy for Disaster Reduction developed within the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[8] to address issues of poverty eradication and sustainable development;

27. *Emphasizes* the need for the international community to maintain its focus beyond emergency relief and support medium- and long-term rehabilitation, reconstruction and risk reduction, and stresses the importance of implementing programmes related to the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction management in the most vulnerable regions, particularly in developing countries prone to natural disasters;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled "Sustainable development".

[8] A/57/304, annex.